

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display device for variably displaying designs; and
a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device,
wherein the front display device includes an electrical display device for
allowing said variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder
for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof in a facially-opposing
manner, the rear holder including a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral
edge and having a front face and an opposite rear face defining a thickness
therebetween, the panel member having one or more windows disposed internally of
the outer peripheral edge and extending to and between the front and rear faces
allowing the designs variably displayed in said variable display device to be observed
therethrough, and that peripheral corner portions in the rear side of the one or more
windows are removed therefrom thereby forming a stepped down portion each
window having a first recessed portion extending from the front face and partially into
the panel member and a second recessed portion extending from the rear side face
and partially into the rear holder panel member toward the front display device, the
second recessed portion being larger than the first recessed portion thereby forming
a stepped down portion from the first recessed portion to the second recessed
portion that completely surrounds the first recessed portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein
said variable display device is one or more rotatable reels each having a reel
band thereon, on which said designs are drawn.

3. (Original) The reel-based gaming machine according to claims 1 or 2,
wherein the gaming machine is a slot machine.

4. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device for variably displaying designs; and
a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device,
wherein the front display device includes an electrical display device for
allowing said variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder
for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof, the rear holder
including a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral edge, the panel member
having a front face and a rear face defining a thickness therebetween and having one
or more windows disposed internally of the outer peripheral edge and extending to
and between the front and rear faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in
said variable display device to be observed, each window having a first recessed
portion formed into the front face and partially into the panel member and a second
recessed portion formed into the rear face and partially into the panel member, the
second recessed portion being larger than the first recessed portion, the first and
second recessed portions being in communication with each other between the front
and rear faces to form a stepped-down rear holder surface disposed between the
front face and the rear face and extending perpendicularly from the rear face, into the
rear holder-panel member and partially towards the front face and surrounding the
first recessed portion.

5. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a variable display device for variably displaying designs; and
a front display device disposed in front of the variable display device,
wherein the front display device includes an electrical display device for
allowing said variable display device to be observed therethrough and a rear holder
for holding the electrical display device from a rear side thereof in a facially-opposing
manner, the rear holder including a flat panel member defined by an outer peripheral
edge, the panel member having a front face and a rear face defining a thickness
therebetween and having at least one window extending through and between the
front and rear faces for allowing the designs variably displayed in said variable
display device to be observed therethrough, the at least one window disposed

internally of the outer peripheral edge and having a front recessed window portion formed into the front face and extending partially toward the rear face to terminate in a front recessed opening and a rear recessed window portion formed into the rear face and extending partially toward the front face to terminate in a rear recessed opening, the front recessed window portion and the rear recessed window portion being in communication with one another between the front and rear faces, the rear recessed opening and the front recessed opening coexisting in a common plane as viewed in cross-section with the rear recessed opening surrounding the front recessed opening.